

CHAMPIONS OF SPORTING WORLD FOR SEASON OF 1909

FEWER DEATHS FROM FOOTBALL THAN REPORTED

Later Statistics Show Records of Fatalities Were Exaggerated.

DEATH RATE WAS NOT EXCEPTIONAL

Death Roll Is Deporable, However, and Changes in Rules to Modify Game Must Be Made Before Another Season Opens.

Total deaths attributed to game... 26
Not due to football... 6
Result of injury in previous seasons... 6
Due to injuries in unorganized games... 4
College players killed... 2
School players killed... 8

When it is said, as was the case at the meeting of the New York Board of education, which voted for the abolition of the game, that the sport had cost twenty-six lives this year, a misstatement of the facts was made.

Reports Exaggerated.
The tabulated statement indicates that football cost twenty-six lives this year. Now, as a matter of fact, careful examination by the Tribune of every case mentioned shows that five of these twenty-six deaths were from causes in no way connected with the game, and that six others alleged to have died from football injuries were victims of accidents in previous seasons.

Thus fifteen deaths remain to be studied as having possibly been due to football as played this year. Of these, four were of persons one victim being only eleven years old. Such players seldom follow any of the rules of the game. Their form of the sport is a rough and tumble engagement called football only because a ball is used in some fashion during the play. It is manifestly unfair to judge the college game by occurrences in such a travesty.

Two Men Fatally Hurt.
Two college players were fatally hurt. Eugene L. Byrne, of West Point, playing against Harvard, sustained a broken neck and died within twenty-four hours. Archer Christian, half back on the team of the University of Virginia, was fatally hurt in a game with Georgetown, and died within a few hours. These are the tragic and deplorable accidents of the season that have made the rule-makers stop and think. That they seem to have been unavoidable makes them none the less deplorable.

Two college players then, have been fatally injured. Eight boys at school playing on regular school teams, with more or less organization, must be added to the death roll. Two of these cases are in institutions of pseudo-college rank—St. Mary's College, of Kansas, and the Medical-Chiroprical College of Philadelphia. Both of these institutions claim good scholastic rating, but in athletics they are barely on a par with schools like Exeter and Andover, and are properly rated with the schools rather than with the colleges.

Not Fully Authenticated.
These eight deaths are not fully authenticated in every case. The Tribune has sent letters of inquiry to the principals of the schools involved, and full answers have been received in many cases. But, even so, no confirmation beyond the original dispatches chronicling the death is available in the table therefore with some reluctance. Five deaths have been proved to be due to football, and two of these victims are known to have been immature and hardly fitted to take part in so strenuous a game. These facts are set forth calmly, and without any desire to attack the views of those opposed to the game as at present. They are intended to be of service to those interested in a real revision. In order that the subject may be approached in a reasonable spirit and without hysteria. The fact is that the total authenticated death roll of fifteen, based upon the figures of the Chicago Tribune, as revised, compares not unfavorably with the record of thirteen deaths in 1907 and fourteen in 1908 recorded by the same authority. To go further into the causes of the fatalities admittedly due to the game is to make the list even smaller. For some of the deaths are shown to be due to a plain disregard of rules and precautions wholly inexcusable.

How Accidents Occurred.
One of the school deaths was due to an injury to the neck received in an open field tackle. Another was



GEORGE MORGAN WINS GOLF PRIZE AT HERMITAGE

Season Opened in Mid-winter, With Course in Good Shape.

PLANS ARE MADE TO BOOST SPORT

With Three Country Clubs in Operation It Is Believed Richmond Can Be Made a Centre of Interest for Visiting Players.

With the course in fair condition and weather conditions all that could be desired, the 1910 golf season was opened at the Hermitage Club yesterday in an eighteen-hole handicap medal score tournament. There were twenty-three entries, which was much larger than for the opening event of last year, and considering that the players have been out of business since fall, good scores were made.

The golf committee, which has in charge the arrangement of future tournaments, has planned to have the golfers out every holiday, and to encourage interest prizes will be awarded each day the special programs are carried out. In summer, tournaments will be held regularly each month, and the players, who perhaps number more than a hundred, will be urged to make challenges among themselves to arouse and encourage interest in a sport which attracts many Northern visitors to Southern climates.

Play the Year Round.
"Richmond is ideally situated for golf," said one of the Hermitage committee members yesterday. "There are very few weeks in the year that the green is not in condition for play, and when it is considered that the recent spell has been the roughest of the present season, it seems remarkable that we could have carried out our plans for the New Year's tournament."

"Golf has never attained the popularity it deserves in Richmond, and the reason is, I believe, that plans for challenge meets have not matured, and there has been nobody to boost the game. Golf is a game that has gained renown all over the country, and if we could get our players to take more active interest in it, it is likely before some Richmond might be heralded as a world's champion."

Will Boost the Sport.
With the opening of the Country Club of Virginia about two months off, it seems that the future for golf is brighter here now than ever before. The new club will have, it is said, one of the most perfect courses in the country, and the management has announced that the game will be one of the features of the outdoor program.

There are at least 500 men in the clubs that play golf in preference to tennis, and although the latter game is not to be neglected, those most interested see no reason why both games should be dropped.

Announcement was made at the Hermitage yesterday that the best golfers of that club will challenge the players of the Country Club of Virginia as soon as that organization is prepared for play, and the golf committee at Lakeside is determined that neither of its rivals shall take away any prize without competition. There is little probability that either Lakeside or Hermitage will be affected by the opening of the new club, at least not for many months.

For seasons past Lakeside golfers have been recognized as the equals of those of Washington, Baltimore, and annual tournaments have been held between the representatives of the cities. It may be, now that Richmond is to be represented by three country clubs, that application will be made sooner or later for admission to the National Golf Association, and with this respect the plans will take more definite shape, and Richmond will be recognized as a golfing centre.

Morgan Wins the Prize.
Play at Hermitage began yesterday at 2 o'clock, and from then until darkness the course was alive with contestants. George D. Morgan, with 63 net, won the prize, but his place was not decided until the scores had been carefully altered and compared.

Following are the scores in yesterday's tournament:

Player Gross Handicap Net

George D. Morgan..... 63 19 88

J. A. Belvin..... 85 25 79

John P. Leary..... 89 17 72

G. W. Washington..... 92 17 75

C. L. Kirk..... 93 9 74

P. Winston..... 95 19 76

W. H. Palmer, Jr..... 91 5 76

C. Harrison..... 98 8 76

John B. Young..... 83 12 76

M. M. McGuire..... 95 17 78

O. B. Hill..... 91 13 78

W. H. Hazard..... 92 12 79

Garnett Tabb..... 100 18 82

R. Fleming..... 102 17 83

J. K. Rawley..... 115 30 87

D. Call..... 92 8 87

C. R. Guy..... 104 17 87

G. H. Young..... 112 25 88

A. C. McKinney..... 120 25 89

College Champions.

In the following table is given a list of the twenty sports fostered by the Eastern universities, with the college which won the championship in each. The list follows:

Sport..... Champion

Football..... Yale

Baseball..... Cornell

Rowing..... Cornell

Track athletics..... Harvard

Basketball..... Columbia

Cricket..... Pennsylvania

Chess..... Pennsylvania

Cricket..... Pennsylvania

Association football..... West Point

Golf..... Columbia

Gymnastics..... Columbia

Hockey..... Harvard

Lacrosse..... Cornell

Swimming..... Pennsylvania

Shooting..... Yale

Water polo..... Yale

SUMMARY OF EVENTS IN SPORT WORLD FOR 1909

CLASS RUSHES ORIGINAL GAME OF FOOTBALL

First Contest Declared to Have Taken Place in 1874.

Football at American colleges runs back beyond the memory of the oldest living graduate. But the kind of football that was played back in the 40's was of such a crude character that it would hardly be recognized as the second great American game today.

The football of the early college days gave place to rushes between the classes, which were practically the same as the football game of that day, except that the ball was not used. These rushes, at first governed by no laws or rules, took on a form of organization during the 60's. There was no name about it during the 60's, but a ball was kicked about and more or less amusement derived from it.

In the early 70's, however, a number of Rugby boys at Harvard revived the game and it was taken up in earnest and associations organized at several of the colleges. In 1872 Columbia University played a match game with Yale on the 16th of November.

There were twenty men on a side and the game was nearer the English Association game than the English Rugby. The costumes of those days were long trousers and jerseys. The rules were simple and forbade any one picking up, carrying or throwing the ball. There were no "on" or "off" side rules, and goals were made by sending the ball under the crossbar instead of over it. Fouls were penalized by making the player who had committed the foul toss the ball straight up in the air from the place where the foul occurred, and it was unfair to touch the ball until after it had touched the ground. This particular rule gave rise later to a good deal of skillful kicking, the man kicking the ball just as it touched the ground. Although the game was played with twenty men on a side, when a man was disabled instead of sending in a substitute a man was dropped from the other side.

Real Start in 1874.
It was not until 1874 that football began its present career of interest in American colleges. In that year football clubs were formed in many of the American colleges, each institution having five or six teams which played intercollegiate games. The first intercollegiate game played between teams of different colleges under the American rules was played on old Forbes Field, at Cambridge, Mass., between Harvard and McGill University of Montreal, Canada. This game was played on May 24, 1874, and resulted in a victory for Harvard by three touchdowns against McGill nothing. The players on the Harvard team were Tyler, Lombard and Goodrich, tenders; Cabott, Grant and Whiting, half tenders; and Sanger, Morse, Lyman, Randall and Leach, rushers. The McGill players were Rodgers and Gilbert, tenders; Abbott, Joseph, Thomas and Goodhue, half tenders, and Baynes, Jenkins, Hill, Huntington and Bowie, rushers. Emerson Blaine, son of James G. Blaine, former Secretary of State, was a member of the Harvard club and acted as linesman in this game.

In this same year Harvard played

Signs Show Games Are Getting Cleaner as Years Roll By.

SEASON UNUSUALLY ACTIVE

Summary of Principal Happenings From Every Section in Past Twelve Months.

That sport has become a regular diet for the American people is more and more evident, and the year just closed has been no exception. There has been unusual activity all along the line, although some of the so-called major sports have received a black eye or two. This especially has been true of racing and boxing. Among the strictly amateur's branches it has been a great year.

Signs of the times multiply that sports the world over are getting cleaner and cleaner as the years go by. Crookedness, which not long ago was associated with other sports than boxing and the turf, is rapidly being eliminated and sportsmanship improved as it never has before. In this connection it might be pointed out that hardly a single athlete was protested by any of the Western colleges. The same practically held true with the East, and what differences arose were amicably adjusted.

Outside of college sports there has been some tension, notably the break in harmonious relations between the Amateur Athletic Union and the Amateur Athletic Federation, which had its birth among the Young Men's Christian Association of this city. The differences of opinion, however, are not likely to decrease athletic activities, but will make the branches of sport controlled by the two organizations more popular than ever.

Minor Class of Sports.
There was plenty of doing in what might be termed the minor class of sports, such as tennis, rowing, archery and the different branches of aquatics. The two big local athletic clubs have always made a specialty of fostering water sports, and a number of records were set by the teams held here.

Tennis saw a boom last summer both in the East and West, scores of tournaments being pulled off. The Western championship was held at the Onwentsia Club, and the title was carried away by McVillie H. Long, the Pacific Coast player, who later figured in the Davis cup series in Australia. Another pair from the coast, McLaughlin and James, captured the Western doubles. When it came to the national championship at Newport, the veteran Larned had no trouble in carrying away the highest honors of the courts.

One of the sensations of the year on the courts was the performances of a young California player, Miss Hazel Hotchkiss, who captured the women's national title.

Archery, rowing and scores of other sports have their devotees. Bicycling had quite a revival. Despite the opposition in a good many centres, six-day races proved popular, especially in New York, where thousands sat day after day watching the riders spin around the indoor track in Madison Square Garden. Cross-country running was another pastime which came into popular favor, while, on the other hand, running over the full Marathon distance is threatened with a decline. It is pointed out that the strain is too great, especially for young athletes.

A summary of the principal events in sports during the year follows:

HASBULL.

JAN. 1.—Sailing "Club" national competition at annual meeting at Cincinnati.

JAN. 5.—Eastern League and American Association are advanced to class A by national commission.

JAN. 16.—A. C. Anson declared bankrupt in municipal court in Chicago.

JAN. 19.—Moving to new baseball at University of Wisconsin.

NEW RULES MAY RESTORE BOXING TO HIGHER PLANE

Boston Expert Formulates New Code to Govern Ring Contests In Future.

BOSTON, MASS., January 1.—In an effort to restore boxing to the high place it once held among lovers of physical contests between men and to do away with the many interpretations of the rules covering ring contests, Spencer T. Williams, one of the most consistent of Boston's boxing enthusiasts, has formulated a set of boxing rules based on the better points of the Marquis of Queensberry and Blanchard Fair Play rules, the latter of which governed glove contests for many years with great satisfaction and with such success that Boston became the centre around which champions of all classes were developed.

Not only were the men developed under these rules, but they were fighters as well. Instances that can be named are George Dixon, world's featherweight champion; Johnny Murphy, Ike Weir, Paddy Duffy, Patsy Kerrigan, Dick O'Brien, Mysterious Billy Smith, Joe Walcott, George Godfrey, Martin Flaherty, Spike and Dave Sullivan, Eddie Conner, Mickey Sears, Dave Ross and others.

The original Fair Play rules were drawn up by a committee consisting of David H. Blanchard and Captain A. W. Cooke, both since deceased. Dr. A. K. Ordway, well-known internist, because of his connection with the National Sporting Club of London, and Mr. Williams.

The rules were in force for some time, but their provisions were not liberal enough to suit some promoters, so Messrs. Blanchard and Williams made a further revision in 1899. It did not publish the revised code. Recently Mr. Williams thought that the better points of the Fair Play and Queensberry codes combined would make an ideal set of rules. These are as follows:

1. All contests should take place in a roped enclosure, from 20 to 24 feet square, or as near that as possible. To prevent injury to the contestant a soft covering, such as a cork or canvas carpet, with a suitable lining underneath, should be provided for the floor. No one, except the referee, timekeeper and attendants should be allowed within three feet of the enclosure.

2. An honest and competent referee must be chosen, who should be familiar with the rules. His orders must be promptly obeyed, and his decisions in all cases shall be final.

3. A responsible timekeeper must be appointed, who shall take his position near the ropes.

4. Each principal must have three attendants, only two of whom shall be allowed within the enclosure, while the contest is in progress. All attendants must take positions outside of the ring, and neither adviser nor speaker to either of the principals, except while resting. While resting, principals may use a light chair in their corners, but it must be placed outside by the attendants while the contest is in progress.

5. A round shall be of three minutes' duration, with one minute between the rounds for rest. In all matches the

(Continued on Second Page.)



WHY J. T. BRUSH WANTED LYNCH

New York Club Owner Recited Some Baseball History in Nomination Speech.

NEW YORK, January 1.—The National League recently made public the speech with which John T. Brush nominated Thomas J. Lynch for the presidency. In his eloquent Mr. Brush was reminiscent. Speaking of the league from its organization he said:

"We have had since its organization in 1876 as president Mr. Billekey from Connecticut, succeeded by Mr. Hubert, who probably was the greatest organizer that we have ever had, and a man who did more for the National League than any other individual who has ever lived."

"Mr. Hubert was succeeded by A. G. Mills, who served only a short time, and he was followed by N. E. Young. Mr. Young was president of the organization from 1887 to 1891.

"During all those years the game improved in all respects with reference to the playing rules, but it deteriorated with respect to rowdiness and lack of discipline upon the ball field, so that during the last years of Mr. Young's presidency the actions of the players upon the ball field were scandalous, and action was taken by this league to correct and reform it in that particular."

"The rowdiness growing out of Mr. Young's leniency," said Mr. Brush, "necessitated a change of methods. Here Mr. Brush intimated that Mr. Pulliam and Mr. Heydler had come too far in their worship of the sport to 'sustain the umpire' faith. It was because of Ward's ability to decide of his own knowledge, while suggestion from the club owners whether an umpire was right or wrong, that the speaker said he had favored him. For that, he thought, was the principal requirement in a league president. In fact, he said, supervision of the umpire, aside from the national commission work, was practically the sole duty of the president."

(Continued on Second Page.)

W.A. LARNED TED COY COMES WITH YALE CLUB

Greatest Star in Football Will Be With Glee Men Here This Week.

When the Yale Glee Club arrives here Tuesday for the concert that night, there will not only be a large number of melody stars along, but also a number of nation-renowned athletes. In the list will be included Ted Coy, all-American halfback, and held as the greatest all-around football star the game has even known.

Tackle Hobbs, another all-American wonder, and several other football men will be present, and still further, Robert Gardner of the Hinsdale Golf Club, Chicago, national golf champion of America and captain of the Yale track team. The local appearance of Coy will undoubtedly attract much local interest, as his phenomenal work year after year under the blue standard has been heralded all over the land.

JEFF SAYS HE WILL BE AT HIS BEST FOR FIGHT

BY JAMES J. JEFFRIES.
I've got to win this fight with Johnson and I will be in the best shape of my life when I enter the ring. I would let them have the \$10,000 forfeit rather than go into the fight in poor shape. I can't afford to take any chances. I have a plenty of time to train, and from now on I propose to work daily until I go into my quarters for the actual work. Every day for the past two weeks I have worked out for two hours with the members of my party on this trip. I have noticed a big difference already and am confident I shall be as strong as ever.

(Continued on Second Page.)